

# SARE: Advancing the Frontier of Sustainable Agriculture in...

# Vermont

## What is SARE?

Since 1988, the Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) program has been the go-to USDA grants and outreach program for farmers, ranchers, researchers and educators who want to develop innovations that improve farm profitability, protect water and land, and revitalize communities. To date, SARE has awarded \$225 million for more than 5,500 initiatives.

## SARE is grassroots with far-reaching impact

Four regional councils of expert practitioners set priorities and make grants in every state and island protectorate.

## SARE communicates results

SARE shares project results by requiring grantees to conduct outreach and grower engagement; and by maintaining the SARE Learning Center—a library of practical publications, grantee-produced information products and other educational materials.



[www.sare.org](http://www.sare.org)

## Project Highlight: *Extension agent advances farmers' innovative ideas*

Heather Darby is all about partnering with farmers to advance their cutting edge ideas—in the end, to the benefit of hundreds of producers across the region. A recipient or participant in nine SARE-funded projects, the University of Vermont Extension specialist has worked with researchers and farmers to help oilseed producers get more value out of biodiesel, organic dairy farmers grow their own feed and grain growers tap a new market in local bakeries.

“I would say that every SARE grant I’ve received was generated because of the questions and interests of the farmers in Vermont and other nearby areas,” Darby says.

Many of those questions have been raised by the region’s emerging community of biodiesel producers, who are pioneering the use of oilseed crops like

sunflower and canola in New England. Darby has worked on two SARE grants to learn more about oilseeds—particularly pest and weed management—and to share their knowledge with others.

With another SARE grant, she is working with oilseed producers and researchers to “close the loop” by producing food-quality oil that can be sold to restaurants and then later returned to farmers for biodiesel production. This two-stage life can increase the oil’s value by up to 50 percent.

Darby is also helping Vermont’s wheat growers produce grain suitable for local bakers, who have been hesitant to source flour locally because of inconsistent quality.

For more information on this research, see [www.sare.org/projects](http://www.sare.org/projects), and search for “Heather Darby.”

## SARE in Vermont

[www.nesare.org/vermont](http://www.nesare.org/vermont)

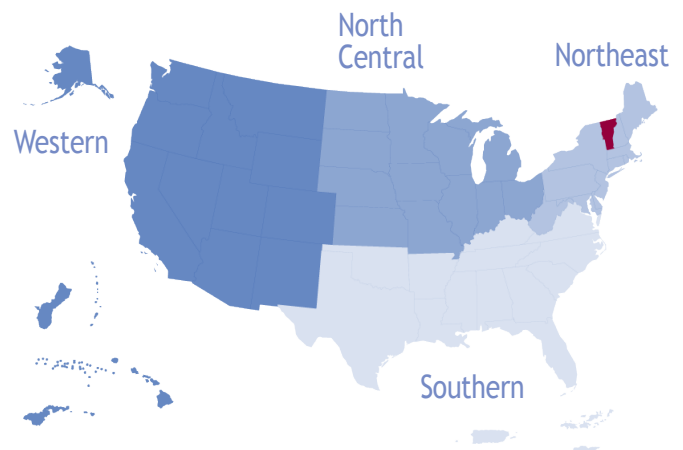
**\$7 million in total funding**

**205 grant projects**

(since 1988)

For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to

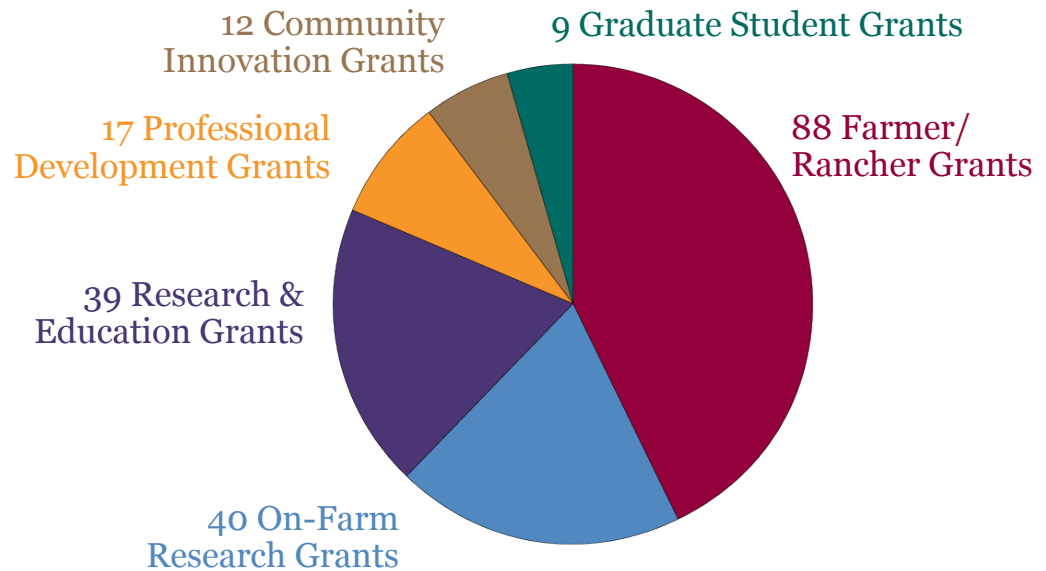
[www.sare.org/state-summaries](http://www.sare.org/state-summaries)



SARE’s four regional programs and outreach office work to advance sustainable innovations to the whole of American agriculture.

# SARE Grants in Vermont

SARE has awarded a total of **205 grants** in Vermont since 1988



## SARE's Impact



**53 percent** of producers report using a new production technique after reading a SARE publication.

**79 percent** of producers said they improved soil quality through their SARE project.

**64 percent** of producers said their SARE project helped them achieve higher sales.

## Contact Your SARE State Coordinator

SARE sustainable ag coordinators run state-level educational programs for Extension and other ag professionals, and many help grant applicants and recipients with planning and outreach. Visit [www.nesare.org/vermont](http://www.nesare.org/vermont) to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to [www.SARE.org](http://www.SARE.org)